

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJ: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FAO LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF LENGTHY COURTESY CALL BY MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO FAO ARTURO MUNOZ LEDO ON U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO JANUARY 21, MUNOZ GAVE CANDID EXPOSE OF MEXICAN ROLE IN LIMA CONFERENCE IN SPRING OF 1976 ON ISSUE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FAO LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE, AND TALKED OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE SOLUTION IN FORM OF RECONSTRUCTING FAO CONFERENCE AS PAN-AMERICAN RATHER THAN LATIN AMERICAN. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SUCH POSSIBLE COMPROMISE FOR MARCH 21-25 SESSION OW WORKING PARTY OF COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF FAO COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES, BUT ONLY ON TENTATIVE BASIS SINCE MUNOZ MAY SOON BE TRANSFERRED TO UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS. END SUMMARY

1. CUTTING THROUGH MUNOZ' SELF-JUSTIFICATIONS AND EUPHEMISMS, ESSENTIALS OF MEXICAN ROLE AT LIME ARE THAT MEXICO WANTED TO AVOID VOTE ON SANTIAGO SITE OF FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICAN, AND SEIZED ON U.S. INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF SANTIAGO AS ISSUE ON
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WHICH LATIN AMERICANS COULD UNITE AND AVOID VOTE ON REGIONAL OFFICE SITE. MEXICAN INSTRUCTIONS CALLED FOR AVOIDING VOTE ON SITE ISSUE, AND MUNOZ SAYS THAT ALMOST ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS WANTED TO AVOID VOTING ON THIS ISSUE. URUGUAY RAISED IT, HOWEVER, AND SOME DELEGATIONS THEN WERE CONSTRAINED TO TAKE A STAND. U.S. INTERVENTION IN FAVOR OF SANTIAGO DE CHILE AS SITE AFFORDED MEXICO

OPPORTUNITY TO EVADE REAL ISSUE BY CRITICIZING U.S. INTERVENTION ON LATIN AMERICAN ISSUE AND QUESTIONING U.S. RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION IN FAO CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICAN--AN ISSUE ON WHICH HE FOUND READY SUPPORT.

2. MUNOZ' THINKING ON SOLUTION OF PROBLEM IS THAT FAO COULD RENAME CONFERENCE PAN-AMERICAN RATHER THAN LATIN AMERICAN, AND THUS INCLUDE UNITED STATES. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HAD EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT U.S. ROLE, UNLIKE FRANCE AND NETHERLANDS, WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON ITS PAN-AMERICAN ROLE, RATHER THAN ON COLONIAL OR TERRITORIAL BASIS. MUNOZ IS LEGALIST AND ENTHUSIAST ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION NICETIES, AND READILY EXPOUNDED VIEW THAT FAO SHOULD ADOPT WHICH PRE-DATES UN OAS CONCEPT (WITH WHICH U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AGREES IN PRINCIPLE).

3. SOLUTION SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 WOULD RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT FAO LIAISON OFFICE FOR NORTH AMERICAN IN WASHINGTON. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN A REGIONAL OFFICE, HOWEVER, AND EQUATING IT WITH REGIONAL OFFICES HAS BEEN MIXING APPLES AND ORANGES. ITS FUNCTION HAS BEEN TO OBTAIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DATA AND REPORT ON IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS OF THE TWO MAJOR FOOD-EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND THIS PRESUMABLY COULD CONTINUE UNDISTURBED, EVEN IF THE LATIN AMERICAN OFFICE WERE RE-DESIGNATED AS A PAN-AMERICAN OFFICE.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE SOLUTION POSED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, SINCE MUNOZ, LIKE IT OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT, HAS BEEN THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN THIS ISSUE, IN LIMA AND IN ROME. THIS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE ONLY TENTATIVE, HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT MUNOZ MAY BE TRANSFERRED. IN A LONG, RAMBLING ACCOUNT OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN MEXICO CITY SINCE SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR, HE SAID HIS BROTHER HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HAS ASKED THAT HE BE TRANSFERRED TO REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO. FOR THE MOMENT, THE LOPEZ-PARILLO REGIME HAS SIMPLY REAFFIRMED EXISTING ASSIGNMENTS. MUNOZ EXPECTS TO BE NAMED TO UNESCO IN PARIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL KNOW ABOUT THIS BEFORE THE MARCH MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY. IF HE IS TRANSFERRED FROM ROME, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE COULD SUCCEED IN HOLDING FOR THE STATUS QUO. IN THE OPINION OF THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO, HOWEVER, THE QUESTION IS NOT LIKELY TO PASS AWAY SO EASILY, EVEN IF MUNOZ, WHO RAISED IT, HAS DEPARTED, AND IT MAY IN ANY EVENT BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THE PAN-AMERICAN FORMULA. VOLPE

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